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The Light of Other Days

Von Arthur C. Clarke, Stephen Baxter

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Von Arthur C. Clarke, Stephen Baxter : The Light of Other Days before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Light of Other Days:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good sci-fi ideas, but not great as fictionVon Anton KaridianI am a big fan of both Clarke and Baxter, but this novel is not among my favorites of their stories. Now, I saw as very interesting the scientific ideas of the possible uses of wormholes, as well as the social manifestations of these developments. There also were many interesting comments

peppered throughout the book. These aspects of the novel seemed like they came from Baxter and Clarke. Yet as a work of fiction I do not think the book succeeds. For one thing, the characters are rather sketchy and unoriginal. Secondly, there is a fair amount of what I consider filler material that does not add to the story. Third, the overall writing style is quite harsh, often with unpleasant language and scenes that in my opinion were unnecessary. This convinces me that the book was surely not written by Clarke, since the dark tone is in complete contrast to the many other works of his I have read. My point here is that if you consider reading this novel as a way to enjoy something by Arthur Clarke, I suggest choosing another. But all in all, as a sci-fi story I enjoyed it to a fair degree. 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Superb speculative essay; mediocre fiction Von E. Uthman THE LIGHT OF OTHER DAYS is populated by such canonical cardboard sci-fi characters as a 15-year-old girl who becomes a world-class computer programming genius, apparently within a few months and with no formal training; a detestable media mogul with absolutely no redeeming qualities; a theoretical physicist who is plucked from obscurity to helm a project of unprecedented importance; and a careerist woman reporter who accepts employment from a villain who she knows has vowed to destroy her. Characters this extreme just can't fall into believable fiction, and it is as a work of fiction that this book is weak. Why four stars? you might ask. Well, this is such an excellent exploration of the ramifications of a scientific breakthrough that it is impossible to (figuratively and literally) put down this book. Imagine a discovery by which, through quantum wormhole technology, anyone can spy on anyone else in space or in time. It's very easy to imagine some of the results of this capability, but trust me: you will not have thought of half as much as have Clarke and Baxter. They leave no stone unturned in examining what wormhole technology could lead to, from the mundane to the awe-inspiring. Typically, my experience with sci fi written around a single tech advance has been that the author's speculation is incomplete and unsatisfying. This is not the case with this book; the authors don't miss a trick. The fairly linear plot is superficially an easy read, but many readers will find themselves pausing often to consider all the implications of each new advance in the wormhole technology. This book also reminded of E. E. 'Doc' Smith's LENSMAN series, where the scale of the action becomes progressively grander, ultimately reaching epic proportions. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sci-Fi Based on Good Science but No Redeeming Value Von David W. Gore If the book had continued what was great Science Fiction in the first 17 of 27 chapters, it would have gotten all 5 stars. However, for whatever reason, Clarke/Baxter got sidetracked into speculating about "debunking" the myths of the past. Since the "worm cam" allowed seeing into the past, it was used to really find out what happened in history. Unfortunately, the history according to Clarke and Baxter is another attempt to push a bizarre social agenda -- including, but not limited to, the Christian religion. I really didn't want to read their version of what Jesus was really like since other writers like Matthew, Mark, Luke and John have a more direct account than these authors. Of course, at the end of the book, a reference is made to another contemporary author that can be "blamed" for this unfortunate sidetrack that detracts from the sci-fi. Also, the story line takes us into the far past showing the de-evolution of man back to scaly, crawling reptiles and single-cell DNA, which makes the reader laugh at how two sci-fi writers managed to re-write the theory of evolution in one quick, meaningless chapter. But, at the end, all is well. Again, man has solved the mystery of the afterlife and decides unselfishly to resurrect everyone who has ever lived! If only the book had stayed with science fiction based upon good science, I would have enjoyed the last 10 chapters as much as the first 17.

Kurzbeschreibung In the most exciting SF collaboration ever, Arthur C. Clarke and his acknowledged heir Stephen Baxter pool talent and unprecedented cosmic insights as well as page-turning plotting skills and breathlessly good writing to produce the most awesome novel of the future since 2001: A Space Odyssey. Space is what keeps everything from being in the same place. Right? With these words Hiram Patterson, head of the giant media corporation OurWorld, launches the greatest communications revolution in history. With OurWorld's development of wormhole technology, any point in space can be connected to any other, faster than the speed of light. Realtime television coverage is here: earthquakes and wars, murders and disasters can be watched, exactly as they occur, anywhere on the planet. Then WormCams are made to work across time as well as space. Humanity encounters itself in the light of other days. We witness the life of Jesus, go to the premiere of Hamlet, solve the enigmas that have baffled generations. Blood spilled centuries ago flows vividly once more and no personal treachery or shame can be concealed. But when the world and everything in it becomes as transparent as glass and there are no more secrets, people find new ways to gain vengeance and commit crime. And Hiram Patterson meanwhile will try to keep his deadly schemes secret but even he, its creator, cannot anticipate the power of the all-seeing WormCam. deSF's grand old man Sir Arthur teams up with newer star Baxter to tackle a whopping science-fiction idea with ample scope for both their talents. Their "WormCam" video camera looks across any distance through tiny wormholes in space. Initially this seems no worse than a remote TV link, but it transforms the world as disquieting cans of worms are irrevocably opened. This gadget is a veritable WormCan. Distance is no obstacle. Neither are walls. Early WormCams allow daringly invasive newspaper scoops--and once the general public can buy them, personal privacy vanishes forever. Anyone can spy on you

anywhere. Or anywhen, because next-generation WormCams peer through time as well as space ... at your embarrassing old secrets, at mysteries of the past, at the truth about old murders, Princess Di, the Mary Celeste, Abraham Lincoln, and even Jesus. As WormCams steadily improve, they probe into deep time: spying on early man, walking with dinosaurs, back and back to a poignant SF vision of what came before life as we know it. It builds towards an utopian dream of the wonders humanity could achieve if given total access to its past. Clarke and Baxter ramble intriguingly in all directions, exploring every implication. Their imaginative set-pieces are linked by a slightly soap-operatic plot featuring the megalomaniac entrepreneur whose labs built the WormCam, the sons he's manipulated like puppets, and one son's girlfriend who becomes a spanner in (as the lab's nicknamed) the WormWorks. Wide-ranging, ambitious and enjoyable. --David Langford.co.uk

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